



Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
Tuesday, December 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Minneapolis Central Library, Doty Board Room

NCEC member attendees: Doron Clark, Matthew Dobratz Andy Hortillosa, Denis Houle, Ishmael Israel, Brittany Lewis, Kenya McKnight, Kirk Roggensack, Saciido Shaie, Jeffrey Strand and Tessa Wetjen.

NCEC members excused: Carol Pass

NCEC members absent: Henry Jimenez

Commission staff: David Rubedor, Lance Knuckles Howard Blin and Cheyenne Brodeen.

Guests: Francisco Segovia and Jovita Morales from the Waite House

Agenda Item

Content

**1. Public
Comment**

The meeting was called to order at 5:13pm with Israel in the Chair. Ten NCEC members were present. Quorum is 7 NCEC members.

A. Recognition of Jenifer Scherer for Neighbor-Works Dorothy Richardson Award:

Commissioner Strand introduced guests Jenifer Scherer, Lind Bohanon Vice-Chair and Amy Luesenbrink, Lind Bohanon Staff. Jenifer was awarded the 2013 [Dorothy Richardson Award](#) for her work on Disability related issues in the Lind Bohanon Neighborhood.

Jenifer spoke and shared that she had been involved in her community from a young age. She got involved in these projects because the neighborhood was awarded a grant for \$10,000 from the University of Minnesota's CURA center. The grant was for improvements for an under-represented community. She led the efforts to make a rail crossing near the Kingsley Commons apartment building accessible for the residents to safely cross, and included a bench for people to use while waiting for the train to go by.

Amy noted that the award Jenifer received was one of 6 in the nation. She also noted that the board is grateful for Jenifer's hard work in the Neighborhood.

Commissioner Strand noted that Jenifer has served as an Elector in the election for NCEC Districts.

Commissioner Roggensack thanked the Executive Committee for inviting Jenifer to attend this meeting. She is an example for what we should strive to be.

2.Introduction
(Action)

A. Agenda.

Motion: Clark moves to approve the agenda, Roggensack Seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Executive Committee Reports
(Informational and Action)

Chair's Report: Chair Israel shared that the action items for today's meeting would be to approve the One Minneapolis Fund RFP and that today's guests are One Minneapolis Fund Grant recipients from the Waite House for their Community Circles Project.

Secretary Report:

A. Minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Strand moves to approve the minutes, Clark seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Attendance Report: Commissioner Strand reported on attendance. Commissioner Pass is absent due to work conflicts. He also reviewed the process for being absent as noted in the bylaws for the newly seated commissioner.

4. Presentation from Conflict Resolution Center
(Informational)

Summary: The Waite House was one of the three recipients of the One Minneapolis Fund pilot grant program. The NCR department has invited all of the grant recipients to attend a NCEC meeting and share information about their work.

Francisco Segovia, Executive Director of the Waite House shared information on their Community Circles Project. The Project gathers groups of residents from the Phillips Neighborhood. The Phillips Neighborhood is very diverse, Native American, Latino and Somali communities call Phillips home.

The Community Circles are a place where people can meet with members with in their own community to

discuss issues in their neighborhood where language and cultural norms aren't a barrier. Initially participants were survey about what issues they faced in their neighborhood, and now the next step in the program is to begin training the participants about building power, being effective in Neighborhood Organizations and how to use E-democracy. Note: Commissioner Shaie arrived at 6:03pm. Eleven NCEC members were now present.

Commissioner Comments: (Note every commissioner that made a comment, spoke of how wonderful this program was)

- Lewis stated that she was interested to hear Francisco share his own experience and how you have to do some learning on your own when getting involved in neighborhoods.
- Houle mentioned that his Son's school donates items to the Waite House and it is a great organization. If you ever need to donate something, take it to the Waite House. He also asked if they do any work with absentee landlords.
 - Francisco said that they don't, they want their work to focus on empower residents to be able to work with the landlords or deal with other problems in their community themselves.
- Wetjen encouraged them to connect with Commissioner Pass who represents the Phillips neighborhoods on this commission.
- Clark noted that the NCEC has had discussions on changing their name to the Neighborhood and Community Empowerment Commission. And asked if any of the participants in the Community Circles have been seated on any neighborhood board.
 - Francisco said that they are in the process of reaching out to the neighborhoods but the timing of the elections doesn't quite align with their program.
- McKnight commented and noted "kudos" to Waite House and that she has been blown away by the presentations. McKnight suggested that they connected with business leaders and business associations in their neighborhoods.
 - Francisco said that they are currently working with NACDI, Hope Communities and the Latino

business group.

- Strand asked if any of their work on this project is having any impacts from the spin-off related to the foreclosure crisis. He shared that a study has shown that homeowners whose primary language is not English has been disproportionately affected by foreclosures.
 - One of the leaders in the program is being affected by foreclosure right now. They would like to get more data and study this issue further. Segovia commented that sometimes resources exist but don't trickle down or come in a form that the residents do not understand.
- Lewis commented that this commission can help them connect with Neighborhood Associations if they find any road blocks in the future.
- Israel concluded comments, thanked Waite House on behalf of the Commission. He suggested members and residents contact City Council members about the positive outcomes from use of a small dollar amount of resources from these One Minneapolis Fund grants.

5.NRP Policy Board Report (Informational)

Summary: Commissioner Strand, as 2013 NRP Policy Board chair, reported that there was no December NRP Policy Board meeting.

The January meeting will be discussing the Grievance Policy Revisions that went out for a 45 Day review period that ended December 9th.

NCR Staff commented that only one comment on the Grievance Policy Revisions was received.

7. Task Force Reports (Action)

A. One Minneapolis Fund:

Commissioner Wetjen shared that there are currently two open seats on the Committee. Commissioner Jimenez indicated that he is interested in re-joining.

Commissioner Dobratz indicated that he too would like to join the committee.

Motion: Strand moves to appoint and accept

Commissioners Jimenez and Dobratz as members of the One Minneapolis Fund Committee, Wetjen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wetjen then reviewed the RFP and highlighted some changes that were different from the 2013 One Minneapolis Fund RFP.

- The committee changed the RFP to ask how each organization connects to the City of Minneapolis.
- The funding level includes a onetime increase from the NCR department's general fund to increase the fund level to \$80,000.
- The committee lowered the cap on the grants to not exceed \$15,000 in order fund more organizations.
- The organization applying for the grant must be headquartered in Minneapolis.
- Will only accept one proposal per organization.
- The committee also decided to fund different projects from same organization.

Commissioner Comments:

The Commission held a lengthy discussion about whether or not to allow an organization who has already been funded could submit a proposal for 2014. The three approaches to this issue that were presented were as follows:

- A program funded in 2013 can be funded again in 2014
- An organization funded in 2013 can be funded for a different project in 2014.
- An organization funded in 2013 cannot re-apply for the 2014 RFP.

Motion: Hortillosa moved that the One Minneapolis Fund Committee creates a Fact Sheet to accompany the RFP, Lewis seconds the motion. 9 yeas, 1 nay. Motion Carries.

Motion: Wetjen moved to add the agreed upon changes

in the RFP, Clark seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Houle moves to edit the last paragraph to read: Organizations funded in 2013 cannot submit a proposal in 2014. Strand seconds the motion. 3 yeas, 7 nays. Motion Fails.

Motion: Strand moves language in the proposed RFP, no second.

Motion: Strand moved to Call the question to close the topic and the debate, Roggensack seconds the motion. 7 yeas, 3 nays. Motion Carries.

Strand suggested a need to adopt the One Minneapolis Fund RFP action. Motion Wetjen (committee chair), Second Strand. 8 yeas, 1 nay. Motion carried.

B. City Department Engagement Task Force: No meeting has been held.

C. Committee of the Whole: No December meeting was held.

D. Community Connections Conference:

Commissioners Roggensack and Lewis serve on the organizing committee, having been appointed by the NCEC. Commissioner Lewis shared that the 2014 Community Connections Conference will be held on Saturday, March 22nd at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The theme of the conference will be "Common Ground: A City that Works for All." The Call for Workshop Proposals will be going out this week.

Commissioner Comments:

- Is there a place for the NCEC to be involved?
 - NCR staff responded that yes, the NCEC should definitely be involved.

9. NCR Report
(Informational)

Summary: NCR Director David Rubedor shared an update on the Community Participation Program (CPP). If you have any questions, please contact Robert Thompson.

David Rubedor also shared that the 2014 Budget process is complete. The Department received additional dollars in

the budget to hire an African American Outreach staff member. In 2014 the department will be seeking applicants for the East African and Southeast Asian Outreach positions that are currently vacant.

He also shared that there will be a more detailed discussion on the Blueprint for Equity at the next meeting. In the meantime, David will send out additional information to the commissioners. Rubedor mentioned that he will be hosting a holiday open house at his home.

Commissioner Comments:

- Clark wanted clarification from staff that in the Memo received from Robert Thompson, Neighborhoods don't have to have dollars allocated in the Neighborhood Priority Plans.
- Wetjen commented about CPP plans approved.
- Strand asked if there will be focus groups for the Community Investment Fund (CIF) held soon as the NCEC and NCR had previously agreed. Strand ~~and he~~ also noted that he thought it was mandatory under the adopted Community Participation Program guidelines for 2012-2013 and 2014-2016 for Neighborhoods to submit one Neighborhood Priority Plan per funding Cycle.
 - David responded that there will be 8 focus groups for the CIF program, one per NCEC district. He also noted that it is mandatory for Neighborhoods to submit a NPP per funding cycle and more neighborhoods are submitting them.

McKnight commented about the African American outreach position that received 2014 budget funding.

6. New Business A. Open Forum:

(Informational and Discussion)

- Wetjen presented a motion for an amendment to the bylaws that eliminates the requirement for signed ballots in electing members of the NCEC Executive Committee. This motion gets automatically tabled until the next full NCEC meeting.
- McKnight commended Cleveland Neighborhood for receipt of a community initiative from the Bush Foundation
- Hortillosa commented about staffing.

- Strand requested that Chair Israel share ~~shared~~ that there will be a Hmong New Year Celebration at Patrick Henry High School on Friday, December 20th at 6:00p.m.

Adjourn

The December 17, 2013 meeting was adjourned by Chair Israel at 7:25pm.